

Sarah Farnquist

June 27, 2003

Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan
MI State Supreme Court
PO Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

RECEIVED

JUN 30 2003

OFFICE OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

To the Honorable Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan:

My name is Sarah Farnquist. I am writing to you on behalf of my children and the decision you currently have before you in regards to the Michigan Child Support Formula. I am adamantly opposed to the change that has been proposed that would cut child support paid by noncustodial fathers based on the number of days or nights that their children spend visiting them. The three reasons for which I am so strongly opposed to such a change are my children: Noah age 10, Jonathan age 8 and Leah, age 4. Such a change will only hurt the children financially as I seek to provide for them their daily needs, a home, health care and a quality education.

As my children's support formula now stands, their father already receives a 50% cut in child support he pays while the children are with him for three weeks in the summer. However, my children's father pays out not a dime in the provision of medical or dental health benefits even though he is instructed to do so in our divorce settlement. I pay their health benefit premiums and then am required to split the remaining co-pays and uncovered medical expenses with him 50/50 through Friend of the Court. The proposed change makes the assumption that the moneys being retained by the father would be used to provide for the needs of the children. Surely we all know that this is a false assumption at best. Such a cut is merely a bribe made to an already irresponsible father and the pawn here is the children.

The system of child support is and forever will be a flawed attempt at justice. In my experience, the rights of my children's father have always outweighed what is best and needful for my children as seen by the judicial system of our state. Unfortunately, the justice rarely goes to those who are innocent in matters of divorce. Attention must be directed instead to changing the no-fault divorce laws of our state, which makes it easier to walk away from a marriage and children than to break a written contract to purchase a vacuum cleaner.

Put responsibility and accountability back in divorce and let the one who has broken the marriage contract whether it is the man or the woman be the one to pay the consequences, not the children, not the innocent spouse. My children's father walked away after nearly 12 years of marriage into the arms of his waiting gay lover. I put myself back through college and supported my children while their father chose not to work and did not pay child support for well over a year. If this change in child support is made as proposed, once again, the biggest losers here will be my children and thousands of other children like them around the state.

Your honor, I urge you and your colleagues to do what is right for the children of Michigan and do not implement this cut in our children's financial support.

Humbly submitted,

Sarah D. Farnquist

Sarah D. Farnquist

Farnquist
2374 Southwood
Muskegon MI
49441